

# POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (SOUTH)

## **Original Vision of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (1974)**

Develop a through trail from Spruce Knob, West Virginia to Point Lookout State Park in southern Maryland.

## **Goals of This Study**

- Determine the feasibility of a through trail from Washington, D.C. to Point Lookout utilizing public and private lands.
- Develop and Promote trailhead to trailhead multi-modal connections where feasible.
- Utilize existing trails.
- Interpret the ecology and history of the Southern Maryland region.

## **Background**

On October 2, 1968, the President signed into law Public Law 90-543, the National Trails System Act. This Act instituted a national system of recreation and scenic trails, designated the initial components of that system of recreation and scenic trails, designated the initial components of that system, and prescribed the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system. In the National Trails System Act, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture, are directed to “make such additional studies as are herein or may be hereafter be authorized by the Congress for the purpose of determining the feasibility and desirability of designating other trails as national scenic trails.” (Section 5 (b) ). Among these authorized studies is that of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST). (1)

In accordance with the Act, a report was prepared, delineating the route of the PHNST, defining the associated scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities which established the national significance of the proposed route. The report also evaluated land ownership and use, land acquisition, development and maintenance, and administration. (2)

A reconnaissance study for the trail was made by the National Park Service and appeared in a report entitled *A Proposal, Potomac Heritage Trail: A Trunk Trail in the Nationwide System of Trails*, prepared for the Steering Committee of the Nationwide Trails Study, dated October 1965. (3)

*The Potomac Heritage Trail Study* was initiated by the Interagency Field Task Force, led by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in May 1969. The report defined the trail as follows: “The Potomac Heritage Trail would follow the course of the Potomac River from the source to the mouth, linking an astounding array of superlative historic, scenic, natural, and cultural features, and offer an outstanding recreation opportunity for the residents of the Potomac Valley and its annual millions of visitors.” (4)

## **Original Study Area**

*The Potomac Heritage Trail Study* divided the PHNST into segments and Segment 1 ran from Point Lookout, at the mouth of the river, and ran to the District of Columbia Line. “The trail originated at Point Lookout State Park, a one-time Union prison camp which has remained in a natural state. It proceeds through the wooded and some cleared lands towards the hamlet and historic site of St. Mary’s City, the first permanent settlement and first capital of Maryland. Beyond St. Mary’s City, and the rhythmically-named Tippity-Wichity Island, the trail follows stream valleys past Leonardtown and Charlotte Hall through Allen’s Fresh and Zekiah Swamp. The trail runs about halfway up the swamp before turning west to the remaining buildings of the historic town of Port Tobacco. West and north of Port Tobacco, the trail route touches and passes near such state Parks and Forests as Doncaster and General Smallwood. At the federally-administered Piscataway Park, a wide range of recreational opportunities is offered and from Fort Washington Park on the Potomac, the trail runs north to the District of Columbia line.” (5)

## **Task Agreement**

In 2014, the National Park Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) executed a Task Agreement which committed MDNR to:

**MDNR agrees to:**

- 1. Conduct an assessment of opportunities and constraints on MDNR properties to recognize a hiking route as part of the Trail network between the lighthouse in Point Lookout State Park and Chapman State Park, including land connections to water trails and other existing outdoor recreation facilities;**
- 2. Identify issues associated with development and management of a continuous route for hiking; and**
- 3. Produce a report and a map for the project.**

**This study, opportunities & constraints matrix, and accompanying maps fulfills MDNR’s responsibilities as outlined in the agreement.**

(1-5) Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, **The Potomac Heritage Trail – A Proposed National Scenic Trail**, December 1974.

## **Project Synopsis**

1. The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) is a “component of the National Trails System and a “unit” of the National Park System but the National Park Service (NPS) does not manage lands for the PHNST outside of NPS areas.
2. A feasibility study was completed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1974 and it did not show an official alignment for the trail.
3. The on-road trail laid out on the map prepared by MDNR as part of this feasibility study (in red) follows the route labeled “Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail Bicycling Route” in the 2010 National Park Service brochure entitled “Potomac Heritage”.
4. MDNR will not be showing an official trail alignment on the map produced for this feasibility study.
5. The PHNST is a partnership among the National Park Service; state, local and other federal agencies; and non-profit organizations.
6. Once a section of trail on MDNR land becomes designated as an official segment of the PHNST, MDNR will not be giving up any of its management authority.
7. The PHNST will primarily be a natural surface trail on MDNR lands, utilizing on-road connections between the federal, state and local government land units.
8. Segments of the trail on MDNR lands can be closed at different times for management reasons, like hunting or resource protection.
9. The official trail segments on MDNR lands will be phased-in, starting with the state park land units because the trails in those land units are mostly in place and are consistent with the management mission of the Maryland Park Service.
10. Some significant sections of the PHNST have previously been designated on public lands in Prince George’s County (Piscataway & Ft. Washington).
11. The NPS published “Potomac Heritage Trail – A Hiker’s Guide”, featuring six hiking trails in Southern Maryland, but that was only a first step and should in no way have any bearing on the alignment chosen during this process.
12. The NPS has historically had funding for PHNST projects where there are non-federal funding matches.
13. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a partner in the National Trails System and manages a segment of the PHNST on BLM land within Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area near Nanjemoy WMA.

14. MDNR's Water Trails Director has underlying data layers to help create a water trail map. The NPS and partners will explore the idea of funding a land and water trail map that also includes opportunities and constraints, along with estimated costs.
15. As we move forward with this important endeavor, we need to always be looking for ways that the PHNST can help MDNR accomplish its mission at each land unit.
16. This PHNST needs to be coordinated with the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway and other programs.

### **Overview**

The study area has changed dramatically since 1969, and there has been a significant amount of development in the ensuing years. Opportunities for running a continuous trail between Point Lookout and Chapman State Park are no longer feasible.

As stated in the *Potomac Heritage Trail – A Hiker's Guide*, published in 2006, "The route on the northern side of the Potomac begins at Point Lookout State Park ...the amount of "roadside walking" in Southern Maryland makes a continuous route impractical for most people." (6)

Constraints such as slope, sensitive resources, wetlands, and private land ownership along the river make a continuous off-road trail along the river **impossible**. But there are still numerous opportunities for the public to experience a myriad of recreational experiences at the **eighteen** (18) Maryland State Parks, Forests, Natural Environmental Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the study area. (see PHNST map)

### **MDNR Trail System-Wide Constraints**

1. Most Maryland State Parks charge an admission fee and monitor park visitation at a main entrance to the park. Trail connections to State parks should provide for access through the main entrance or a designated secondary entrance approved by the park manager.
2. MDNR recently added extensive acreage to the Maryland Wildlands system, and several of these additions, including acreage in Chapman State Park, Mattawoman NEA, and Zekiah Swamp Natural Environmental Area, are located within the study area. The Wildlands designation places certain restrictions and limitations on trail construction and use and precludes the construction of most structures.

(6) National Park Service, **The Potomac Heritage Trail – A Proposed National Scenic Trail**, December 1974.

3. Hours of operation on all MDNR lands is dawn to dusk. It is illegal to leave a vehicle in a state park overnight unless camping in a designated camping area.
4. All undertakings on MDNR lands must first be vetted through the **MDNR Internal Review Process** and then approved by the specific land manager.
5. There are no trash receptacles at MDNR lands because Maryland state parks and lands are pack it in/pack it out.
6. MDNR is currently meeting the recreational needs of the public given available resources. Operations and Maintenance will be required with any additional project. Staffing on MDNR lands has been reduced dramatically and all proposals on MDNR lands within the study area must first be approved by the land manager.
7. There is no way to create a continuous trail running along the Potomac River using strictly public lands. The PHNST will be a collection of natural-surfaced trails within the MDNR land units and other public & private lands, connected by roads.
8. Trails can not run through MDNR campgrounds.
9. Dispersed primitive camping is not allowed on MDNR lands.
10. Trail use is restricted seasonally on some state lands where hunting is allowed, and trail users need to be familiar with the potential hazards of hiking in an area where hunting is taking place.
11. Trail volunteers need direct supervision when performing any work.
12. All trails will have to address ADA compliance issues.
13. Off-Road Vehicles are not allowed on any of the MDNR land units in the study area, including utility corridors.

### **MD TRAIL ATLAS**

The MDNR website has a link to the *Maryland Trail Atlas* under the Maps tab that will show the land trails (red) and water trails (blue) in great detail.

Go to: [http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/MD\\_Trails/Trail\\_Atlas.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/MD_Trails/Trail_Atlas.asp)

And then click on the **Interactive**\* Trail Atlas. *Interactive* means that you can click on the map and every time you click your mouse on the map, the view gets closer and closer to the target area you wish to check out.

### **DNR LANDS**

## **Chapman State Park (Parks)**

### **Features**

#### **Mt. Aventine Mansion**

The Chapman family occupied its Mt. Aventine mansion until 1914, when the family estate was sold. This grand manor house was built by Nathaniel Chapman's great-grandson, Pearson, around 1840, after a fire damaged the original house near the river. The antebellum mansion, which commands a prominent overlook and spectacular view of the Potomac River, was appended to a small stone cottage dating to the late 1700's. Today's structure includes several additions.

The structure was enlarged around 1860, expanding its east-west axis. The Mt. Aventine Mansion is a two-story, common bond brick structure, with lower flanking wings. A cedar lined lane provides the approach to the manor house.

The house currently consists of 8 fireplaces, 5 bedrooms, 6 ½ bathrooms, a front parlor, a dining room, a main kitchen area, a warming kitchen area, and 2 offices. There is also a basement under the main part of the house. The central hall with two wings architecture makes it one of the best examples of antebellum homes in Southern Maryland. As such, Mt. Aventine was added to the National Register of Historic places in 1996.

From 1914, when the Chapman family sold its estate, until the 1990's, there were various owners of the property – including the Countess Margit Besseney, who owned the property from 1954 – 1984. The Countess was the late wife of the Hungarian ambassador to the United States and an avid equestrian. She used the Chapman property as a stud farm for Hungarian thoroughbred horses. Chapman State Park still includes the barns, stables, and a riding arena installed by the Countess.

Mt. Aventine Open House - The Friends of Chapman State Park host an open house on the second Sunday of each month between April and October. These open houses feature guided nature walks, history presentations, and children's activities.

## Nature

The habitats of Chapman State Park vary from flooded wetlands to cactus-studded dry sands, illustrating the variety of the coastal plain's natural heritage. Significant biodiversity thrives here, with over three dozen state-rare species of oaks, a globally rare snail, wetland animals, native cactus, bald eagles, and much more. The park's many forest types include oak-hickory terraces, steep ravines, bottomland woods, and a rare shell-marl forest which is rich in calcium-loving plants reminiscent of mountain habitats. Over 1,000 acres of forest interior grant sanctuary for dozens of species of birds, protecting them from predators that hunt more open spaces. Chapman State Park also boasts several trails, 2-miles of Potomac shoreline, miles of streams, shaded wetlands, fertile pools where amphibians breed, sunny meadows, and a large impounded marsh.

## Recreation

- Birding – In 2009, Chapman State Park was designated as an **Important Bird Area** by the National Audubon Society.
- Fishing - Fishing is permitted from shore. Species include largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, white and yellow perch, carp and hardhead. A Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing License is required.
- Hunting - Designated areas of Chapman State Park offer managed and in-season hunting opportunities. For specific information refer to the Maryland DNR – Guide to Hunting and Trapping or call 301-743-5161 for current seasons.  
Hunters may enter / remain on park property outside of the regular posted hours provided that they are engaged in legitimate, authorized hunting activity.
- Pets - Pets are permitted in the state park.
- Potomac River Trail – This hiking trail doubles as a service road that joins the original Chapman's Landing Road to the Potomac River. The 0.6 mile trail roughly marks the boundary between a dry sandy woodland (to the northeast), and a more moist, richer forest (to the southwest).
- Marsh Trail – This marked trail branches off of the Potomac River Trail, and meanders through a fertile bottomland woods that contrasts the sandier woodland along the Potomac shoreline. The 0.7 mile trail leads to an unusual "scrub-shrub" marsh which is separated from the Potomac River by a narrow spit.
- Coastal Woodlands Trail – This clearly marked, 1-mile trail joins the Potomac River Trail to make a 1.5 mile loop. The trail runs through various habitats, including a terrace gravel forest and a coastal oak forest, to eventually run along the Potomac shoreline.

## Trail Map

A new map of the trails at Chapman State Park can be downloaded for free from this website. Please make sure to read the printing instructions and information for how to download the file to cell phones.

### **Points Of Interest**

- Historical points of interest nearby include:
  - Thomas Stone National Historic Site
  - Fort Washington National Historic Site
- There are several scenic flat water canoe routes in Southern Charles County, including the Potomac River Water Trail
- Nearby Public Lands; Smallwood State Park; Nanjemoy WMA Chapel Point State Park

**Directions** - From the DC area: DC Beltway (I-695) to Indian Head Highway (Exit 3) – MD Route 210 S; Continue on Route 210 for approximately 10 miles to the light at Bryans Road (stay straight).

From Bryans Road - Follow for 1.1 miles to Chapmans Landing Road – Veer right off the highway. Continue for 1.6 miles to the entrance sign - on your right

The driveway gate is usually locked. Visitors are encouraged to park in the small designated area just outside the main gate and enter using the “Walk-In Gate” to the left.

### **Hours of Operation** - Dawn to Dusk

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy** - Pets are allowed in Chapman State Park but they must be on a leash at all times.

**Contact Information** - This is not the physical address of Chapman State Park.

Chapman State Park  
c/o Smallwood State Park  
2750 Sweden Point Road  
Marbury, MD 20658  
301-743-7613

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- Parking
- No Bathrooms
- Environmental
- Historic Resources
- Safety – Hunting
- Wildlands

## **Mattawoman Natural Environmental Area (Wildlife)**

Paddle Mattawoman Creek from Mattingly Park upstream and experience the Chesapeake Bay in miniature. Follow the migration route of herring, shad and yellow perch to spawning sites in the upper Mattawoman drainage. The extensive wetlands and the large beds of submerged aquatic vegetation are a critical nursery and feeding grounds for fish, including these anadromous species as well as weakfish, spot, croaker and the rare longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*). These areas are attractive to anglers for national fishing tournaments as well as to large fish-eating birds like herons, egrets, and bald eagles.

From the brackish marshes of the estuary near the put-in to the freshwater tidal forest and the non-tidal marshes at the Route 224 bridge, the wetlands of this Natural Area are diverse and teeming with wildlife. The Indian Head Rail Trail offers views of the wetlands by bicycle or on foot from the north side of the creek. On the south side, a walk on the George Wilmot Trail reveals a variety of colorful forest songbirds in the spring and summer. This trail leads to several vantage points on the creek where almost 20 species of waterfowl can be seen in the fall as they stop over in large flocks to rest and feed before continuing on their journeys. The rare and elusive marsh bird, king rail (*Rallus elegans*), can be found during the breeding season in the dense tidal freshwater marsh. In summer, visitors may see the beautiful flowers of the rare American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) floating on the open water of the creek. Native Americans consumed the potato-like tuber of this aquatic plant as well as the leaves and seeds, and may have spread the species for their use.

Mattawoman Creek Natural Area includes over 1,300 acres in northwestern Charles County. This area is one of Maryland's most significant natural resource areas, and the estuarine portions of the creek have been described by some as a model for a fully restored Chesapeake Bay. The Natural Area is owned by the State and is managed by the Maryland Park Service. Charles County manages the Indian Head Trail.

Trail access is limited to the paved Indian Head Rail Trail and a short dirt trail off Route 224 to Nelson Point.

### **Directions**

**From Washington, DC:** Travel I-95 /495 (Capital Beltway) to Exit 3 at MD 210 (Indian Head Highway). Take MD 210 south about 18 miles to Indian Head. To launch a boat, continue through town about 2 miles and turn left onto Mattingly Avenue, just before the naval base gatehouse. Proceed 0.75 mile to the boat ramp at Mattawoman Creek. To reach the Indian Head Rail Trail, turn left (south) at MD 225. After 1.2 miles, turn left onto MD 224 (Livingston Road) and continue 0.4 mile to a parking lot on the left. To hike the George Wilmot Trail, from MD 210 turn left (south) at MD 225. After 1.6 miles, turn right on MD 224 (Chicamuxen Road) and continue 0.7 mile to Lackey High School on the left. The trailhead is off the right shoulder 0.3 mile beyond the school driveway. Look for small signs after the first telephone pole beyond a guard rail.

## **Constraints**

- Designated Wildlands where machinery and installation of manmade infrastructure is not allowed.
- Maintenance restricted to hand tools.
- Funding & Resources.
- No bikes allowed.
- The old “colonial road” through the property will need to be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust.
- DNR needs to determine the exact ownership boundaries on the south end of the park along the river.
- It will be difficult to run the trail along the river after Marberry Creek due to wetlands. This will probably entail a new alignment through the woods in order to avoid the wetlands.
- There is a big ownership gap between Mattawoman & Smallwood SP.
- The old “colonial road” through the property will need to be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- Historic Resources
- No Biking
- No Formal Trails
- No Parking
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting
- Boundary Concerns

## **Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area (Wildlife)**

Located in western-central Charles County, Myrtle Grove WMA contains hardwood forests, wildlife plantings, natural and man-made wetlands and early succession habitats. This 1,723-acre tract is located in the forested bottomlands of Mattawoman Creek and was once home to the Piscataway Indians. Myrtle Grove WMA is dominated by mature upland and bottomland forests consisting of oaks, hickories, maples, sycamores, poplars, beech, and several other tree species.

### **What To Do**

Visitors will find a 23-acre lake, a 10-acre pond, two green-tree reservoirs, and numerous streams on Myrtle Grove WMA. The 23-acre Myrtle Grove Lake and the greentree reservoirs yield a bountiful harvest of large-mouth bass, bluegills, pickerel and catfish. Here, anglers will find year-round fishing and easy access. Sportsmen can pursue white-tailed deer, squirrels, woodcock, rabbits, quail, waterfowl, mourning doves, wild turkeys and other game species.

### **Area Regulations**

Use of Myrtle Grove WMA is generally permitted seven days a week throughout the year.

Hunting is allowed in accordance with open seasons, shooting hours, and bag limits.

Trapping is by permit only.

Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

### **Non-hunting Uses**

- ☐ Non-hunting visitors are welcome.
- ☐ Be aware of open hunting seasons and visit accordingly.
- ☐ Fishing for large-mouth bass, bluegills, pickerel, catfish is available in the 23-acre lake and the 10-acre pond.
- ☐ Trout are stocked in the 23-acre lake and the 10-acre pond on a seasonal basis.
- ☐ There is a series of roads and trails that receive varying degrees of maintenance.

### **Shooting Range**

- ☐ An eight-station firearm shooting range, trap range, and three-station archery range are open for public use by permit. Rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader and pistol target shooting are permitted. The range is closed during deer firearms season.
- ☐ A permit is required for everyone age 18 and older. Shooters 17 and younger MUST have a hunter safety certificate and be accompanied by someone 18 or older with a valid range permit.
- ☐ Seasonal Range permits are \$20 and can be obtained from any License Agent, Online, by mail using this form or over the phone at (800) 918-2870.
- ☐ Daily permits are \$5 and may be obtained at the Myrtle Grove office only. Call (301) 743-5161 for additional information on obtaining a one day permit.
- ☐ Range Hours:

**March through October:** Sunday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Monday from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

**November through February:** Sunday and Monday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The range will open at 9:00 am on any Monday that falls on a State Holiday.

### **Site Management Practices**

- ☐ Myrtle Grove provides critical habitat for all types of wildlife from the ever-popular white-tailed deer and the majestic barred owl, to fish, turtles, upland game, forest game, waterfowl and migratory birds.
- ☐ Approximately 15 of acres are kept in wildlife plantings and early succession vegetation to provide habitat and food for upland wildlife.
- ☐ Wood ducks and other waterfowl flock to the flooded-forest areas, called "greentree" reservoirs. Two green-tree reservoirs were built to provide food and wintering habitat for waterfowl. These are deliberately flooded in the fall and winter while the trees are dormant. The nuts and seeds dropped by the trees are used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.
- ☐ White-tailed deer, wild turkeys, mourning doves, bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits, songbirds and waterfowl routinely use these managed areas.
- ☐ More than 100 wood duck and bluebird nest boxes are present.
- ☐ The fields and forested areas are burned in rotation to perpetuate native vegetation and provide excellent turkey brood habitat.

### **Directions**

Myrtle Grove WMA is located in Charles County about 5 miles west of LaPlata on MD 225. Take U.S. Rt. 301 south to MD 225, about 5 miles south of Waldorf. Go west on MD 225 to Myrtle Grove WMA. For additional information contact the Myrtle Grove Work Center at (301) 743-5161

### **Constraints**

- This area is a part of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources public land system and is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The primary mission of the WMA system is to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and their respective habitats as well as to provide public recreational use of the State's wildlife resources.
- Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition. The federal aid funds are derived from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (or Pittman-Robertson) Fund, which sportsmen and women have been contributing to since 1937. Each state receives a share of the funds, which is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these funds are used for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, including the management of the WMA system.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access

The MDNR land unit formerly known as the **Chapman Residual** land unit was added to the Myrtle Grove WMA in 2014. This is truly a unique property worthy of its recent addition to the Maryland Wildlands inventory. The public can currently access the property on-foot, but there is no trailhead or formalized trails. The old roads and skid trails are slowly returning to their natural condition and MDNR does not intend to build any new trails, or maintain the slowly receding trails that currently exist on the property.

### **Constraints**

- A connection to the Indian Head Trail is not feasible due to Wildlands and wetlands.
- Safe access and parking does not exist along the Indian Head Highway.
- There is no safe way to cross the 4-lane Indian Head Highway to connect the northern portion to the southern portion of Chapman State Park.
- The property includes examples of key wildlife habitats that support more than 20 rare species sustains acres of mature forest, non-tidal wetlands, and forested seeps. It is ecologically significant and drains into the Mattawoman Creek before entering the Potomac River.
- There is no way to cross the extensive wetlands throughout the area without causing natural resource damage.
- There are several significant stream crossings that would require the installation of foot bridges using mechanized equipment.
- A hand-built single track trail would not be a option for those riders who have taken the Three Notch Trail and the Indian Head Rail Trail on road bikes.
- A multi-use trail would not be consistent with Wildlands regulations.
- Bikes are not allowed in Wildlands.
- DNR does not want to open a fragile successional/old growth forest to trail building and clearing. There are old skid trails that would encourage widespread access to the property and negatively impact the Rare, Threatened and Endangered species.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- Funding & Resources
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Highway
- Wildlands

## **Smallwood State Park (Parks)**

Smallwood State Park takes its name from General William Smallwood, a native born Charles Countian. He was the highest ranked Marylander who served in the American Revolutionary War. His house, called Smallwood's Retreat, has been restored and is open to visitors seasonally. Besides the restored house, the 628 acre park offers a marina, boat launching ramps, a picnic area, camping area, pavilions, a recycled tire playground and nature trails. On occasion, there are craft demonstrations, military exhibitions and other special events.

## **History**

Smallwood State Park was dedicated in September 1958, as a historic park. At the time, the park consisted of 30 acres of land which included the Retreat House and the grave site of General William Smallwood. Smallwood reached the rank of major general for his service as a patriot leader during the Revolutionary War. He was elected Governor of Maryland in 1785, and later served in the Maryland Senate. During his term as the 4th Governor of Maryland, Maryland ratified the Federal Constitution. The plantation house reflects Smallwood's lifestyle as a gentleman planter.

Sweden Point Marina was not always known as Sweden Point. At one time it was referred to as Sweetman's Landing. The area that is referred to as Grinder's Wharf (which is only a few exposed pilings today) was built on a naturally deep water channel in the Mattawoman Creek. The Grinder family was one of the areas major brick manufacturers in the Chicamuxen area. They in turn used Grinders Wharf to ship their brick out to the wholesalers. In the mid 1800's the wharf was used by the Washington Steamship Lines on the Potomac. The steamers would pick up water on their journey south to the Chesapeake Bay. A park map is available from the park office.

## **Sweden Point Marina**

Sweden Point is located on the Mattawoman Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. It is approximately one mile from the marina to the Potomac River. Sweden Point Marina has 50 slips and excellent access for fishing on the Potomac River.

The marina can accommodate boats up to 36 feet in length (one slip can accommodate 42 foot length) and includes a bathhouse, electric and non-potable water hook-ups. Dock-side fresh water fill station and pump-out station are available. Wet slip renters have 24 hours access to the facility. Rates are based on the length of the boat and the duration of stay. We offer five month and annual leases. For those traveling the tidal Potomac, transient berthing is also available. Vessels arriving by water may reserve slips in advance by calling 301-743-7613. The area around the marina is dredged to a depth of 6 feet.

Sweden Point Marina is currently renting boat slips. Sweden Point is a secured marina with restrooms, showers and laundry facilities. Potable water and electric service is provided for every slip. Seasonal (5 month) rates start at only \$417. For more information, call 301-743-7613.

A dry storage area is available for tailored vessels. Dry storage has up to 50 spaces in a secure lighted area. Monthly rates are available for dry storage with owners having access to their vessels from sunrise to sunset.

Six boat launch ramps are available. A launch service charge of \$10 per day for in-state visitors and \$12 per day for out-of-state visitors is in effect year round. Golden Age Passes are not accepted for launching services. Boat ramps are only open during park hours. Visitors wishing to stay out on their boats overnight are required to fill out a "Float Plan" form, available on the bulletin board by the boat ramps.

Concessions - Sweden Point Marina features a small store which provides dock-side fuel (gas, no diesel), ice, bait and tackle, snack foods and souvenirs. The concession is open seasonally, call in advance for current hours of operation (301) 743-7336.

### **Features**

**Fishing** - One can fish from the shore or from several stationary piers located at Sweden Point Marina. Fish that could be caught include: largemouth bass, catfish, white and yellow perch, and carp. A Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing License is required. For more information on how to purchase a fishing license visit: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/license.asp>.

**Recycled Tire Playground** - Children ages 5-12 can enjoy climbing walls, a ten-tire bouncer, tire swings, a fish music wall and much more. Through a cooperative project between the Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Environmental Service, and DNR, funding was made available for the construction of a community built tire playground at Smallwood. In a four day period, a playground with the theme of fish and history was created. The playground entrance features art murals by Mattawoman Creek Art Center artists Bob Kenyon and Gene McCandless, and the fishing theme can be seen throughout the playground as over 65 hand-painted fish dot every piece of equipment. More than half of the structures are accessible to children with disabilities.

**Picnicking** - Picnic tables and grills are available at the Sweden Point Concession area and at various points in the historic area of the park. Three pavilions are available by reservation.

**Hiking** - The trails at Smallwood meander through the hardwood forest, passing many natural and historical points of interest. The entire trail system is approximately 2 miles in length with several marked exit points if the walk becomes too strenuous.

**Historic Area** - Smallwood's Retreat House, a restored 18th century tidewater plantation and a 19th century tobacco barn are open on the first and third Sundays, May through September,

from 1 to 5 p.m. Tours can be arranged with a minimum of 2 week's notice. A special Colonial Christmas open house is held on the second Sunday in December and features the house decorated with fruits and greens as it would have been in Colonial times. Please call 301-743-7613 for details.

Historic weapons safety guidelines for interpretive demonstration purposes as authorized by the Maryland Park Service.

**Camping** - Fifteen family campsites with electric hook-ups are available under the canopy of a hardwood forest. Four camper cabins sleep four and two cabins sleep six and have heat and air conditioning. Cabins #17 and #18 overlook Mattawoman Creek. Cabins #16 and #19 are close to the creek, but do not have a water view. Cabins #20 and #21 are located as you first enter the campground area. A picnic table, lantern post and fire ring are provided on each site. Bath house facilities with hot showers are also provided. **See the Park's Camping Regulations on the MDNR website.**

Due to the potential threat of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and other invasive beetles, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has prohibited the importation of personal firewood into all DNR owned and managed properties. Firewood is available in the campground at the Camp Hose site for \$5/crate. You are also welcome to gather any sticks and limbs that are on the ground around your site.

**Youth Group Camping** - There are two youth group camping sites available, reservations are required. Youth Group passes are honored. Each youth group site can accommodate approximately 25 people. Access to restroom facilities, fire ring, and one 12 foot picnic table are provided with each site. (Available April-October) You can make reservations through the Reservation Service or by calling 1-888-432-2267.

**Reservations** - Reservations can be made in advance for family campsites, camper cabins, and pavilions by calling 1-888-432-CAMP (2267). Reservations are not required, but are recommended especially between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Click [here](#) for camping season beginning and ending dates, and camping and shelter service charges. Walk-in campers should report to headquarters upon arrival in order to register for a site. If headquarters is closed, a Ranger can be reached on the duty phone at 240-743-8475 for assistance.

**Bass Tournaments** -- The Potomac River is one of the premier Bass Fishing areas on the East Coast. Smallwood hosts many tournaments throughout the year. All tournaments are required to be registered at Smallwood, and there is a small tournament permit service charge to cover administrative costs. Tournaments can be booked a year in advance. For a current tournament listing, tournament rules, weigh station guidelines or to book a tournament please contact the park office at 301-743-7613.

**Accessibility** - Smallwood State Park offers an accessible fishing pier, marina office, campground bathhouses, shelters, six camper cabins and day use comfort stations. For

additional accessible amenities in Maryland State Parks, visit the Accessibility For All section of this website.

**Important Information** - Day use service charges are \$3 per person on weekends and holidays, April through October; \$3/vehicle all other times (honor system in effect when toll booth is not staffed). Out-of-state residents add \$2 to all day use service charges. Smallwood State Park is open year-round. The park is open from 5 a.m. to sunset during the season (April-October) and 7 a.m. to sunset during the off season (November-March). Our headquarters is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the season (April-October) and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the off season (November-March).

**Pets** - Pets are allowed in all day use areas and in the campground. Pets must remain on a leash at all times. Pets are not allowed in the cabins

**Sweden Point Discovery Center** - The Sweden Discovery Center offers many opportunities for children of all ages to explore their natural surroundings. The discovery center features live animal displays including snakes, toads and turtles, interactive learning stations such as a fossil dig sandbox, and more. It also offers many programs year-round such as nature hikes, campfire programs, and Junior Rangers. For more information on the current program schedule or to request a special group program (school field trips, scout groups) please call the Discovery Center at 301-743-2041.

### **Points of Interest**

- Smallwood is within 40 minutes of Washington, D.C. via the Route 210 corridor.
- Smallwood State Park is the starting point for a 26.5 mile bike tour of Southern Charles County. The entire tour is featured in Anne H. Oman's book, 25 Bicycle Tours in Maryland -- General Smallwood Country Tour.
- Historical points of interest nearby include Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Fort Washington National Historic Site, Dr. Samuel Mudd House, Port Tobacco Court House and One-Room School House.
- There are several scenic flat water canoe routes in Southern Charles County -- contact the Southern Region Nature Tourism Coordinator at 301-743-5928 for additional information.
- Nearby Public Lands: Nanjemoy WMA (fishing and hunting); Chapel Point State Park (fishing, canoe and john-boat launch, hunting); Mattawoman NEA (canoeing, hiking, and fishing); Chapman State Park (hiking, hunting and fishing).
- Zekiah Swamp NEA is a 443 acre park located in Charles County along Route 234 at the Wicomico River. Visitors may park along the roadside to hand launch small watercraft. This is also a very popular fishing spot in the region.

- Smallwood State Park stretches from the Potomac River to Mattawoman Creek, covering 2,160 acres in western Charles County. It is a dramatic reminder of the great woodlands that once cradled the Potomac tidewater. The park features the Chapman family mansion currently known as Mt. Aventine. This tidewater plantation home was built in 1840. Monthly open houses are conducted by the Friends of Chapman State Park. Recreational opportunities include birding, fishing and hunting. Although picnic tables are not available, picnicking on the grounds with a blanket is popular. The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. The outside gate is only open on Open House days. Limited parking is available near the gate and visitors are encouraged to walk into the park. The area north of Route 210 is used for hiking, biking, bird watching and hunting.

### **Trail Map**

A new map of the trails at Smallwood State Park can be downloaded for free from this website. Please make sure to read the printing instructions and information for how to download the file to cell phones.

### **Directions**

Take Route 301 south to La Plata, to west on Route 225 to Route 224. At the light at Route 224 turn left (south). Park entrance is approximately 3 miles on the right.

From Route 210 south towards Indian Head, take a left (east) on Route 225 to Route 224. At the light at Route 224 turn right (south). Park entrance is approximately 3 miles on the right.

### **Hours of Operation**

5 a.m. to Sunset, April to October; 7 a.m. to Sunset, November to March

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

### **Constraints**

- The Navy explodes ordinance at Stumpneck which is adjacent to the park.
- The Navy has shown no interest in allowing access onto their property for the trail, but there may be room on the outside of their perimeter fence.
- A new trail would have to be constructed within the park, from the historic house to the southern end of the park at the Navy Property.
- Entrance Fee
- Environmental
- Funding & Resources

### **Chicamuxan Wildlife Management Area (Wildlife)**

This 381-acre site situated along the Chicamuxen Creek, a Potomac River tributary, in western Charles County consists of prime marshlands as well as uplands, rolling forested habitats, and agricultural fields. The property was the site of a Civil War encampment under the leadership of Union General, Joseph Hooker.

### **What to see**

Chicamuxen marshes abound with a wide variety of waterfowl species including Black Ducks, Gadwall, Mallards, Widgeon, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ring-neck, and occasional Scaup and Canvasback. Adult and immature bald eagles can be seen almost daily hunting the marshes and upland areas. A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed during the nesting season. Upland areas featuring wildflowers and native grasses, early successional fields and annual wildlife plantings attract a myriad of species to the upland openings.

### **What to do**

Hunters enjoy the pursuit of the numerous white-tailed deer found on the property, as well as the abundant puddle ducks which can be hunted at waterfowl blinds along Chicamuxen Creek. Check out a map of the area. Birders and hiders enjoy traversing the many trails which wind throughout the property.

### **Area Regulations**

- ☐ Use of Chicamuxen WMA is generally permitted seven days a week.
- ☐ Hunting is allowed in accordance with open seasons, bag limits and shooting hours.
- ☐ Trapping and waterfowl hunting is by permit only.
- ☐ Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

### **Non-hunting Users**

- ☐ Non-hunting visitors are welcome.
- ☐ Be aware of open hunting seasons and visit accordingly.
- ☐ Birders and hikers enjoy traversing the many trails that wind throughout the property; however, the trails are not marked and are only minimally maintained.
- ☐ The marshes are rich with bald eagles, osprey, hawks, turtles, and herons.
- ☐ A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed in the upland forests during the nesting season.
- ☐ The upland areas are lush with wildflowers, native grasses, early succession fields and annual wildlife plantings that attract and support a myriad of wildlife.

### **Site Management Practices**

- ☐ Herbaceous cover and food plots are planted and maintained.
- ☐ Numerous wood duck and blue bird boxes have been erected and are maintained.
- ☐ The marsh and upland areas are burned in rotation to control invasive species, promote native vegetation, and improve foraging habitat.

**Directions**

Chicamuxen WMA is located in Charles County 8 miles south of Mason Springs on Rt. 224. Take Rt. 210 south to Indian Head. Travel east on Rt. 225 for 2 miles, then Rt. 224 south to Chicamuxen WMA. For additional information, contact the Myrtle Grove Work Center at (301) 743-5161.

**Constraints**

- This area is a part of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources public land system and is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The primary mission of the WMA system is to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and their respective habitats as well as to provide public recreational use of the State's wildlife resources.
- Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition. The federal aid funds are derived from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (or Pittman-Robertson) Fund, which sportsmen and women have been contributing to since 1937. Each state receives a share of the funds, which is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these funds are used for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, including the management of the WMA system.
- The public can utilize the existing entrance road and loop trail, but the remaining game trails are seasonal and hard to follow.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access

## **Doncaster Demonstration State Forest (Forest)**

Forest management did not occur on the Doncaster property until 1973. Prior to that, the only harvesting of trees was on less than twenty-one acres for pulpwood products. In 1973 a thirty-five acre regeneration harvest for pulpwood products was initiated in a stand of mature Virginia pine. Approximately twenty-five acres of this first managed sale was replanted with Loblolly pine, using a mechanized woodland machine planter. This twenty-five acre plantation was thinned in 2000 for pulpwood products.

In the summer of 1974 a forest inventory was completed on the property and a Forest Management Plan was prepared. From 1973 to 1984 286 acres of mature Virginia pine were harvested and reforested with Loblolly pine provided by the State Tree Nursery. In 1984 a second inventory of the forest was completed to monitor growth, establish new forest stands, determine stand volumes and monitor the overall health and forest stand dynamics. In 1992 a new Forest Management Plan was prepared following a third inventory of the forest. The most recent forest inventory was completed in the winter of 2006/2007 for this plan.

## **Forest Management**

Approximately 48% of the forest at Doncaster is comprised of hardwood species; specifically oak, yellow pine, beech and maple. Pine stands occupy 38% of the forest at Doncaster, dominated primarily with plantations of loblolly pine and scattered pockets of native Virginia pine. Mixed oak/pine stands dominated with white oak and Virginia pine complete the forest composition occupying 15% of the species composition.

In 1984 a Demonstration Forest was created in each of Maryland's four forested geographic regions. These forests were established to educate the citizens of Maryland by demonstrating sound forest management practices to help assist landowners in the decision making process in managing their own woodland.

Doncaster Demonstration Forest shall be managed using Sustainable Forestry techniques that respect the full range of environmental, social, and economic values of the forest, and seek to meet today's needs without losing any of those values. Sustainable forests maintain all components (trees, shrubs, flowers, birds, fish, wildlife, etc.) as well as ecological processes (nutrient recycling, water and air purification, ground water recharge, etc.) so they can remain healthy and vibrant into the future.

A basic part of sustainable forestry is adaptive management, which means that forest managers watch and monitor the forest carefully so that, if future conditions change and the forest shows signs of stress or decline, new management actions can help restore sustainable conditions. The management of this property is reviewed through a regional interdisciplinary team consisting of biologists, ecologists, foresters and land use planners.

A variety of *silvicultural* treatments [Silviculture is the practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values. The name comes from the Latin *silvi-* (forest) + *culture* (as in growing)] have occurred on Doncaster following the second forest inventory in 1984. A detailed summary of each harvest is attached at the end of this plan.

### **Prescribed Fire**

Prescribed fire will be used to manage stands of pine on Doncaster Demonstration Forest. Site preparation burns will be initiated as needed to prepare regenerating harvest areas for tree planting. Understory burns will be initiated in Loblolly pine stands to control hardwood.

### **Recreation**

Recreational opportunities on the property include hunting, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. There are approximately thirteen miles of trails and woods roads at Doncaster Demonstration Forest. There are kiosks with a rudimentary map as some trailheads.

### **Natural Area**

A 242-acre Natural Area has been delineated on Doncaster Demonstration Forest. The conservation of biological diversity and watershed protection are issues of importance in this area. Commercial timber harvesting will not occur in this area. This area has been managed in the past and contains areas with large diameter yellow poplar trees.

This Natural Area will be protected from fire, invasive species, insects and disease. Access roads and trails will be maintained and equestrian use will be limited to designated trails.

### **Leave No Trace**

Doncaster Demonstration Forest is Trash Free.

### **Directions**

In Charles County - North side of Port Tobacco Road due east of Gilroy Road, and the west side of Gilroy Road south of Gilroy Road and Port Tobacco road intersection.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Formal Trails
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting & Prescribed Burns & Forestry Practices

### **Nanjemoy WMA (Wildlife) – Wilson Farm (Charles County) – Douglas Point (BLM)**

The Nanjemoy WMA is now 265 acres larger and will provide even more opportunities for hunters and sportsmen. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has added the Liverpool Tract to the NRMA and the new area is open to hunting. MDNR acquired the property located in the south western portion of Charles County in 2010.

The Liverpool Tract of Nanjemoy WMA is open to regulated hunting for all game species in accordance with established season dates and bag limits. Hunters and trappers can find those regulations in the 2011-2012 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland. Waterfowl hunting and trapping on the Liverpool Tract of Nanjemoy NRMA is by permit only.

Hunter access to Nanjemoy NRMA requires possession of a seasonal permit and daily reservations are required for waterfowl blind sites. Hunters must park in designated parking areas only.

The property is managed by Wildlife, Charles County, and the Bureau of Land Management. In September 2005, MDNR and the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM) approved a long-term land management plan for the Nanjemoy WMA that provides essential guidance for the sustainable protection and use of approximately 1,900 acres of public land in Charles County.

Nanjemoy WMA is situated along the tidal Potomac River on the Nanjemoy peninsula. The majority of the property straddles Maryland Route 224 and has been labeled one of the most ecologically and culturally significant landscapes remaining in Maryland, as it protects 1.2 miles of relatively undisturbed shoreline. The waterfront portion of the property is entirely within the state's Critical Area and provides refuge for migratory waterfowl and wading birds. It also contains an extensive network of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and secluded bays that protect bay grasses, which in turn clean the Bay and provide habitat for numerous fish and invertebrate species.

The area is also almost completely forested, comprised of mixed hardwoods such as white oak and red maple, which extends off-site into the Nanjemoy Creek watershed. As a whole, it provides contiguous forest that certain sensitive wildlife species require and has been designated by The Nature Conservancy as high quality habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS). There are a few small areas that were cleared as recently as 10 to 20 years ago; these have begun to regenerate with early successional species such as loblolly pine.

This pristine, diverse area provides protection for several rare, threatened and endangered species. In 2003, MDNR's Natural Heritage Program identified at least two active bald eagle nests on the property. The worm-eating warbler, believed to be the state's most area-sensitive species, has also confirmed to be breeding on site.

Through a long-term lease with MDNR, most of the more intensive recreational infrastructure and activities will be provided by Charles County. The County will lease (from DNR) and manage approximately 185 acres near Malloys Bay to utilize as a waterfront park. In 2007, the County improved road access and constructed a single-lane motorized boat launch that provides much-needed access to the Potomac River main stem.

Plans for next year also include construction of a non-motorized canoe/kayak launch to the Potomac River Water Trail, installation of an interpretative/informational kiosk and portable restroom facilities, and construction of picnic pavilions. During later phases, preliminary facilities will be improved (the portable restroom will become a permanent building, etc.), accessible parking and trails will be added to provide access for people with disabilities, and camping sites and a small visitor center may be added if and when demand is evident.

MDNR and BLM will also provide for public access but will primarily manage the remaining 1,736 acres of the property to maximize protection of natural and cultural resources. Trails will connect areas throughout the WMA and provide three pedestrian access points to the Potomac River. The BLM will also create an accessible interpretative trail to access the archeological remains of the Chiles Homesite. MDNR will manage hunting on the property and plans to create an environmental restoration area that will enhance and restore habitat for several threatened and endangered species, such as the leopard's bane plant and the frosted elfin butterfly.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and partners have completed renovations to the Friendship Farm Park boating access facility, completely rehabilitating the 40-year-old launch site. Now open to the public, the significant facility improvements provide safe and easy boating access to Nanjemoy Creek and the lower Potomac River. Owned and operated by Charles County, the Friendship Farm Park boating project involved the construction of two timber flank walls, a two lane concrete boat ramp, and an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible aluminum floating boarding pier. The project was made possible through a partnership between MDNR's Boating Services, Charles County Department of Public Works Division of Parks and Grounds and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program.

There is a small boat launch and picnic facilities at Wilson Landing that accesses the Malloys Bay water trail. There is a soft launch at Douglas Point. There are natural surface trails at Wilson Farm B, Wilson Farm C, and Douglas Point, along with small parking areas at each trailhead.

Along the Potomac River in southwestern Charles County lies the largest remaining area of mature hardwood forest for miles around. Douglas Point Natural Area encompasses over 800 acres of forest and the Potomac River shoreline along Blue Banks and Wades Bay. Trails lead visitors past natural springs, where groundwater flows out of wooded slopes to form mossy seeps, and into areas that are beginning to show characteristics of old growth forests.

Additional information about the Liverpool Tract and Nanjemoy WMA is available from the Myrtle Grove WMA office at 301-743-5161.

### **Directions**

**From Washington, DC:** Travel I-95/495 (Capital Beltway) to Exit 3 at MD 210 (Indian Head Highway) and take it south towards Indian Head, nearly 18 miles. Just north of Indian Head, turn left to go east on MD 225. After 1.6 miles, turn right to go south on MD 224 (Chicamuxen Road). From here, travel 8.5 miles and turn right at the split with MD 344 to stay on MD 224, which is now called Riverside Road. Continue another 5.5 miles to the signed parking lots.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

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**As of 2014, Purse State Park** no longer exists as a state park unit and was incorporated into the Nanjemoy WMA. The property is located on the Potomac River on Wades Bay. The property is a wooded undeveloped area that is used for hunting, bird watching, fishing and fossil hunting. This land unit is available for public use year round, sunrise to sunset.

Parking is located off of Maryland Route 224 across from an approximately one (1) mile trail leading to the waterfront.

Additional information about the Liverpool Tract and Nanjemoy WMA is available from the Myrtle Grove WMA office at 301-743-5161.

### **History**

The property is a part of the Aquia Formation which formed in the Paleocene Epoch about 60 million years ago when a gigantic meteor hit the earth. This area was covered with warm shallow water which made it a suitable habitat for sand tiger sharks, mackerel sharks, Turritella (snails) and Eagle Rays more specifically Cownose Rays which all lived during this time period.

## **Features**

**Hunting** - Hunters are limited to a total of 10 in the area at any given time. The sign-in box for hunters is located next to the parking area. There are several unmarked, hunter created trails on the same side of the road as the parking area. Please be aware, all of the property is open for hunting. Waterfowl hunting is at its best during the final part of the season.

Waterfowl Zones are located on the beach, and may be used by permit only. Please contact Myrtle Grove WMA for more information. Hunters may enter / remain on park property outside of the regular posted hours provided that they are engaged in legitimate, authorized hunting activities.

**Fossil Hunting** - Fossil hunting has become a popular activity. Fossilized sharks teeth, bones and shell fragments are often found at low tide in the rocks and sand along the waters edge. Check the tides before you come. At high tide there is very little beach available.

**Birding** - There are a couple of unmarked, hunter created trails on the same side of the road as the parking area that bird watchers enjoy walking. These trails meander through a forested area and along the edge of a small wetland. *Note: These trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.*

**Fishing** - Fishermen will need a [Bay Sport \(Tidal\) Fishing License](#) to fish this area. Wades Bay is a great fishing location for carp, large mouth bass, white perch and many other fish species. During the summer months Wades Bay tends to fill with submerged aquatic vegetation often making fishing a challenge.

## **Directions**

Follow Route 301 south to Route 225 west. At intersection of Route 225 and Route 224, take a left on Route 224. Stay on Route 224 for approximately 15 miles. The property has a dirt parking lot right along the road side. The trail to the beach is across the road from the parking lot.

## **Hours of Operation** - Sunrise to Sunset

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy** - Pets on a leash are allowed in the formerly designated Purse State Park.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

## **Riverside Wildlife Management Area (Wildlife)**

This 373-acre site situated on the Potomac River in southwestern Charles County consists of a mix of mature forested and reforested habitats as well as tidal marsh, non-tidal ponds and wetlands. The property came under state ownership in 2010.

### **What To See**

Forest wildlife, including many species of songbirds dwell at Riverside WMA. Wood ducks and Great blue herons can be seen in the non-tidal wetlands and marshes of Halfway Creek.

### **What To Do**

Hunters come to Riverside WMA for the white-tailed deer, gray squirrels and wild turkey which roam the forests. Hikers will find unmarked trails for bird-watching, nature photography or just a daytime get-away.

### **Area Regulations**

- ☐ Use of Riverside WMA is generally permitted seven days a week.
- ☐ Hunting is allowed in accordance with open seasons, bag limits and shooting hours.
- ☐ Trapping and waterfowl hunting is by permit only.
- ☐ Motorized vehicles are prohibited off of paved roads or designated parking areas.

### **Non-hunting Users Guide**

- ☐ Non-hunting visitors are welcome.
- ☐ Be aware of open hunting seasons and visit accordingly.
- ☐ Birders and hikers will enjoy traversing the unmarked trails and old logging roads that wind throughout the property.
- ☐ The marshes and wetlands are rich with bald eagles, osprey, hawks, turtles, and herons.
- ☐ A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed in the upland forests during the nesting season.

### **Site Management Practices**

- ☐ There is currently no active site management.
- ☐ Site management objectives and practices will be established as part of the WMA Planning Process that is currently underway.

### **Directions**

Riverside WMA is located in Charles County, 24 miles southwest of La Plata on Holly Springs Rd and Riverside Rd. Take Rt. 301 south to La Plata. Travel west on Rt. 6 for 22 miles, then right on Holly Springs Road to Riverside WMA. For additional information, contact the Myrtle Grove Work Center at (301) 743-5161

### **Constraints**

- This area is a part of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources public land system and is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The primary mission of the WMA system is to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and their respective habitats as well as to provide public recreational use of the State's wildlife resources.
- Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition. The federal aid funds are derived from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (or Pittman-Robertson) Fund, which sportsmen and women have been contributing to since 1937. Each state receives a share of the funds, which is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these funds are used for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, including the management of the WMA system.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- Funding & Resources
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

## **Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area (Wildlife)**

This 1926-acre site situated on a peninsula between Nanjemoy Creek and the Potomac River, in southwestern Charles County consists of a mix of forested and upland habitats as well as tidal marsh, non-tidal ponds and wetlands, and agricultural fields. The property was acquired from the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen in April of 2009.

### **What To See**

With habitats ranging from tidal mudflat to mature forest, Cedar Point WMA has a wide variety of wildlife. The tidal marsh and non-tidal wetlands abound with waterfowl, muskrat and turtles. Adult and immature bald eagles can be seen almost daily hunting the marshes and upland areas. A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed during the nesting season. Upland areas featuring wildflowers and native grasses, early successional areas attract a myriad of species to the upland openings.

### **What To Do**

Hunters enjoy the pursuit of the numerous white-tailed deer found on the property. The forest and fields abound with wildlife. Check out a map of the area. Birders and hiders enjoy traversing the many farm lanes which wind throughout the property.

### **Area Regulations**

- ☐ Use of Cedar Point WMA is generally permitted seven days a week.
- ☐ Hunting is allowed in accordance with open seasons, bag limits and shooting hours.
- ☐ Trapping and waterfowl hunting is by permit only.
- ☐ Motorized vehicles are prohibited off of paved roads or designated parking areas.
- ☐ There is an active farming lease on the property. Please be considerate of the crops in the fields and avoid damaging them in any way.
- ☐ There is restricted area along the southern boundary of the property. Cameras and Hunting are not permitted in the restricted area.

### **Non-hunting Users Guide**

- ☐ Non-hunting visitors are welcome.
- ☐ Be aware of open hunting seasons and visit accordingly.
- ☐ Birders and hikers will enjoy traversing the many farm lanes that wind throughout the property.
- ☐ The marshes are rich with bald eagles, osprey, hawks, turtles, and herons.
- ☐ A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed in the upland forests during the nesting season.
- ☐ The upland areas are lush with wildflowers, native grasses, and fallow fields that attract and support a myriad of wildlife.

### **Site Management Practices**

- ☐ There is currently no active site management outside of the activities associated with the agricultural lease.
- ☐ Site management objectives and practices will be established as part of the WMA Planning Process that is currently underway.

### **Directions**

Cedar Point WMA is located in Charles County, 9 miles southwest of La Plata on Blossom Point Rd. Take Rt. 301 south to La Plata. Travel west on Rt. 6 for 6 miles, then Blossom Point Road south to Cedar Point WMA. For additional information, contact the Myrtle Grove Work Center at (301) 743-5161.

### **Constraints**

- This area is a part of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources public land system and is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The primary mission of the WMA system is to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and their respective habitats as well as to provide public recreational use of the State's wildlife resources.
- Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition. The federal aid funds are derived from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (or Pittman-Robertson) Fund, which sportsmen and women have been contributing to since 1937. Each state receives a share of the funds, which is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these funds are used for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, including the management of the WMA system.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

## **Chapel Point State Park (Parks)**

Chapel Point State Park is located on the beautiful Port Tobacco River, a tributary of the Potomac River. Chapel Point is an undeveloped multi-use park that boasts a waterfront that offers excellent fishing.

### **Features**

**Fishing** - A Maryland Bay Sport Tidal License is required. Watch your tides before visiting this area. At high tide there is almost no beach. This area has a small sand launch area that is suitable for the launch of small john-boats, canoes and kayaks, and personal watercraft.

**Hunting** - is permitted in the 600 acre state park. The area provides suitable habitat for quail, squirrels, doves, rabbits, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and waterfowl. Game hunting is permitted during the seasons established by the Wildlife Division. Chapel Point has a small handicap hunting area. There are three established hunter parking areas. Sign-in boxes are located in each of those areas. A maximum of 45 hunters is permitted at any given time.

Hunters may enter / remain on park property outside of the regular posted hours provided that they are engaged in legitimate, authorized hunting activity.

**Camping** - Chapel Point has a paddle-in campsite available by permit only. This is a primitive site and is only accessible by water. Call 301-743-7613 for permits. Site is available seasonally. Please reserve this site at least two weeks in advance to ensure time for permit processing.

### **Trail Map**

A new map of the trails at Chapel Point State Park can be downloaded for free from this website. Please make sure to read the printing instructions and information for how to download the file to cell phones.

### **Nearby Points of Interest**

- Historic St. Ignatius Church, founded in 1641, is one of the oldest Catholic Parishes in continuous service in the United States. The church is located adjacent to State Park Property.
- Historic Port Tobacco Court House is located off of Chapel Point Road near the intersection of Route 6 and Chapel Point Road. In 1685 a naval port of entry for the Crown, the town remained a major port through the end of the Revolutionary War. Catslide House, Courthouse (1819) and museum are open for tours. Call 301-934-4313 for information.
- Friendship House is located on the LaPlata campus of the College of Southern Maryland. This reconstructed colonial home is reminiscent of the life and architecture of Maryland's early settlers. Call 301-259-4279 for information.

### **Directions**

From the Route 6 and Route 301 intersection, take Route 301 south to Chapel Point Road. Follow Chapel Point Road in a westerly direction for approximately 2.3 miles to the park entrance.

### **Hours of Operation: Sunrise to Sunset**

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

- **Pet Policy:** Pets are allowed in Chapel Point State Park but they must be on a leash at all times.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- Environmental
- No Formal Trails
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

## **Zekiah Swamp-Allens Fresh Natural Environmental Area**

The Zekiah Swamp is a twenty mile long, three quarter mile wide wooded swamp located primarily in Charles County. The swamp originates in Prince George's County and flows through Charles County forming the headwaters of the Wicomico River.

During the 1970's and early 1980's, a number of events occurred which brought significant attention to the natural resources and environmental sensitivity of the swamp. In 1975, the swamp was declared a wild and scenic river and one of the most important remaining ecological areas on the East Coast. In 1981, the swamp was designated an Area of Critical State Concern.

The expansive marshes of Allens Fresh lure paddlers upstream in pursuit of a bald eagle or osprey soaring overhead, a heron stalking the shoreline for prey, or perhaps the rise of a yellow perch or a glimpse of a northern river otter sliding down a marsh bank. Visitors witness the diminishing influence of tide and salinity as they proceed upstream. Brackish tidal marshes of cordgrass transition to fresh tidal marshes of wild rice, rice cutgrass and pickerelweed. The receding tide exposes sandy mudflats that provide habitat for the globally rare Long's bittercress (*Cardamine longii*, State listed as Endangered) and the rare wetland flower, spongy lophotocarpus (*Sagittaria calycina*). Beyond the marshes, tidal shrublands and forests of willow oak, green ash, and swamp rose yield to non-tidal forests of cherrybark oak, red maple, blackgum and sweetgum.

The marshes and swamp forests of Allens Fresh help to maintain the water quality of the Potomac River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay by absorbing nutrients and chemicals and trapping sediments that run off from roads, farm fields, and subdivisions. Even so, the sandy, tidal mudflats and rare plants are threatened by excessive runoff. Allens Fresh comprises more than 250 acres owned by the State. **No managing authority had been assigned to the property by MDNR as of January 2015.**

### **Directions**

**From Waldorf:** Take US 301 south past Waldorf to La Plata. Continue south about 9 miles to MD 234 (Budds Creek Road). Turn left and proceed a mile to the small boat access area on the north side of the road on both sides of the Budds Creek Road bridge. Park in one of the access areas; keep alert to oncoming traffic.

### **Constraints**

- Most of the property is now a designated Wildlands and all motorized activities and installation of manmade infrastructure are prohibited.
- Trail and boat access to the property is very limited.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- Funding & Resources
- No Parking
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting & Wildlands

## **St Clements Island State Park (Parks)**

On March 25, 1634, the first English settlers under the Baltimore proprietorship sailed to St. Clement's Island on the Ark and the Dove (*a replica of the Maryland Dove is seen to the right*). The 40 acre park contains a memorial cross dedicated to the memory of the first Marylanders. *Accessible only by boat.*

Boat tours to historic St. Clement's Island are offered on a weekend schedule. The 26 passenger vessel, *The Water Taxi II*, is fully insured and a certified tour boat by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The *Water Taxi II* leaves the St. Clement's Island-Potomac River Museum beginning the first weekend in June and continuing every weekend through September 1st. Call ahead for an updated schedule for time of departure. Passengers are welcome to leave on the early boat and return on the last trip.

The *Water Taxi II* may be chartered by private parties and commercial tours during the daylight hours throughout the week.

For additional information, contact the St. Clement's Island-Potomac River Museum at 301-769-2222. The St. Clement's Island Museum is open March 25 through September 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. From October 1 through March 24 the museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Contact the museum for current admission fees.

Blackistone Lighthouse will be open by appointment only. Please call St. Clements Island Museum for further information.

## **Features**

Fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnicking, pavilions (first come/first serve), portajohn.

St. Clements Island State Park offers no accessible amenities. For available accessible amenities in Maryland State Forests and Parks, visit the [Accessibility For All](#) section of the DNR website.

## **Directions**

**From Washington, D.C.:** Take 495/95 Beltway to Exit 7A (Route 5 south to Waldorf). Follow Route 5 to Waldorf, make a left in Waldorf to continue on Route 5. In Mechanicsville, Route 5 turns right. Continue on Route 5 to Morganza. Turn right on Route 242. Follow to Colton's Point. Turn left onto Bayview Road and follow Museum signs.

**From Virginia:** Take Route 301 to Route 234 (turn at the White House Hotel). Take Route 234 south to Clements. Turn right onto Route 242 and follow to Colton's Point. Turn left onto Bayview Road and follow Museum signs.

**Hours of Operation** - Sunrise to Sunset

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy** - Pets are allowed in St. Clements Island State Park but they must be on a leash at all times.

**Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Access Only By Boat
- Environmental
- Historic Resources
- No Parking
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

## **Newtowne Neck State Park (Parks)**

Newtowne Neck re-opened for public use on April 21, 2014

The State of Maryland acquired the Newtowne Neck peninsula in 2009, to preserve the area's rich natural, cultural and historical heritage. The property includes 776 acres of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields, and more than 7 miles of Potomac River shoreline in St. Mary's County.

Surrounded by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay and the Potomac River, public recreational opportunities currently available at the park include hiking, fishing, boating, birdwatching, and other passive outdoor activities.

In January of 2012, the park's rich history became even more apparent with the discovery of several items of World War II-era military ordnance on or near the shoreline. The discovery led to the closure of the park and an extensive study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers into prior uses of the property. Researchers determined that the property was used by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory and, later, the United States Navy, for testing of inert test artillery rounds.

Since the initial discoveries, additional ordnance -- both inert test artillery rounds and other military ordnance -- has been located and safely disposed of by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and/or a military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

Based upon the Corps' comprehensive research, Newtowne Neck State Park re-opened for public use in April 2014.

Despite the findings that only inert test artillery rounds were deployed here, caution and common sense dictate that any ordnance found should be considered potentially dangerous, regardless of appearance or age. These items may be heavily corroded, partially buried, or covered with algae or mud, making them difficult to recognize.

As you enjoy all the peninsula has to offer, the Maryland Park Service urges you to help protect yourself, your family and your community by learning and following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety - recognize, retreat and report.

## **Background**

Newtowne Neck State Park was purchased by the State of Maryland in 2009 and is a unique and important addition to Maryland's State Park system. The park's outstanding scenery, water access, gentle topography and significant history offer something for everyone. A peninsula of farm fields, forest and sandy shoreline, it is home to historical events and times that tell the story of Southern Maryland.

When the property was acquired in 2009, the Department of Natural Resources conducted a initial outreach effort to educate the public and build support for this important land acquisition. This effort involved a facilitated public stakeholder meeting to identify overarching interpretive themes and recreation development opportunities for Newtowne Neck State Park, as well as two additional Province properties purchased by the State.

## **Initial Master Plan Efforts**

The development of a master plan for Newtowne Neck was initially delayed, after being delayed by the discovery of World War II era munitions on the shoreline of the State Park in 2012. The Park Service has worked closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to find and remove the munitions and to develop a plan to address any future discoveries. A Newtowne Neck Master Planning Committee has been formed with representatives from the community, St. Francis Xavier Parish, park user groups, and local government officials. The approximately 25 member group includes others with expertise in archaeology, historic interpretation, tourism, recreation, and resource protection.

## **Next Steps**

Ultimately, a suitability map will be developed and will be used to develop one or more concept plan(s). A second public meeting will be held to obtain input from the public on the draft concept plan or plans, so that a single plan can be further refined. This concept plan will become the foundation of the park master plan.

It is anticipated that in early summer of 2015, a draft master plan document will be available for review. After a preliminary internal review, a third public meeting will be scheduled to present the draft plan to the public for comment. These comments will be addressed and the final master plan document will be developed for final approval by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

## **Park Development**

In 2011, the Department secured a federal Land and Water Conservation Grant in anticipation of the need for capital funding to help support future park improvement projects that are identified during the public planning process. The grant was broadly written to maximize flexibility regarding the use of the funds.

As of 2014, the Maryland Park Service has made only minimal improvements to Newtowne Neck State Park in order to allow for the community participation process and master planning effort to guide further resource analysis, recreation development, and resource restoration activities. Currently the Park includes the following features:

- An entrance sign, information bulletin board, picnic table, and gravel parking area for several cars (open sunrise to sunset)
- A natural surface canoe and kayak launch that provides access to a protected cove
- Access to seven miles of undeveloped shoreline for fishing and wading, much of which consists of a sandy beach
- A network of unimproved farm roads and trails that provide several miles of hiking and biking
- Waterfowl hunting to license holders during regulated seasons

The Department anticipates that the public participation process and the work of the Master Planning Committee will result in recommendations for the development of additional passive, outdoor recreation improvements and infrastructure that complement the existing recreation opportunities in the region. Because of the numerous natural and cultural resources on the site, careful analysis, additional studies and surveys, and the guidance and expertise of other State and federal agencies will be a crucial part of the planning, design, and implementation process during the coming years.

### **Newtowne Neck State Park History**

Newtowne Neck State Park is a 776 acre peninsula surrounded by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay, and the Potomac River. It has seven (7) miles of ecologically and recreationally important waterfront.

Newtowne Neck was home to the Piscataway Native American Tribe and their ancestors for many centuries before its settlement by the colonists. The property, Newtowne Neck, is the site of the first settlement in Maryland after the original settlement in Saint Mary's City. The original colonists landed on St. Clement's Island in 1634. In 1640, William Bretton was granted 750 acres from Cecelius Calvert for the Newtowne Neck tract. In 1668, the Society of Jesus acquired the property from William Bretton in exchange for 40,000 pounds of tobacco. William and his wife, Temperance, donated one and one-half acres of their property in 1661 to the Society of Jesus to establish a chapel and cemetery. The property was maintained by the Society of Jesus until they withdrew from the land in 1967 to work in other areas.

The Department of Natural Resources purchased Newtowne Neck in late April of 2009. The land was purchased to protect the waterfront from development. The purchase of Newtowne Neck, provides the ability to preserve diverse natural water and land areas, safeguard wildlife habitats, conserve sustainable forest lands, and protect the quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

Newtowne Neck will provide public access to the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail and provide a lasting legacy to future generations of Marylanders.

Newtowne Neck is also designated as the first historic district in St. Mary's County and is listed on the National Register of Historic places.

### **Features**

**Park Hours** - Newtowne Neck State Park is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. Maryland State Parks are "Trash Free". Please practice "Leave No Trace" principles and take your trash with you when you leave. To view these principles visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org). Any questions or concerns, contact Point Lookout State Park at 301-872-5688.

**Canoeing and Kayaking** - Non-motorized crafts can be walked in and launched from the launch area during regular park hours. Canoes and kayakers can enjoy access to the [Captain John Smith National Historic Trail](#). Also, for more locations to launch your vessel, visit: [Scenic Waterways of St. Mary's County](#).

**Fishing** - Visitors can fish from designated areas along the shoreline year round from sunrise to sunset. A [Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing License](#) is required for persons 16 and older.

**Hiking** - Enjoy the experience of exploring the natural environment, wildlife and different plant species while hiking and walking on the property. Please remember to be considerate of agricultural crops and naturally sensitive areas to avoid adverse impact to this unique area.

**Hunting** - Waterfowl hunting is permitted by water only.

**Birding** - Enjoy the opportunities to visit some unique birding habitats including tidal shorelines, forest, hedgerows, meadows and agricultural fields. [The Maryland Ornithological Birding checklist](#) may help you document those birds you see at Newtowne Neck State Park.

**Picnicking** - A limited number of picnic tables are available on a first come first served basis at the day use area.

**Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities** - For additional accessible amenities in Maryland State Forests and Parks, visit the [Accessibility For All](#) section of the DNR website.

### **Directions**

Take Route 5 towards Leonardtown. Turn right at the light at the intersection of Route 5 and MD-243 and follow the road for three miles.

**Hours of Operation** - Sunrise to Sunset

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy** - Pets are allowed in Newtowne Neck State Park but they must be on a leash at all times.

**Constraints**

- The park has been periodically closed to the public due to unexploded ordinance.
- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Master Plan
- Oversight Committee
- Safety – Hunting & Unexploded Ordinance

### **Salem State Forest (Forest)**

Salem State Forest offers public hunting, hiking and off-road biking. Salem State Forests has trails for horseback riding. Salem State Forest now features a custom mountain bike trail installed by the Southern Maryland Mountain Bike Club. The system serves as an outdoor demonstration area, and is used to educate private woodland owners and the citizens about the benefits of sustainable forestry practices, and how forest management activities incorporate natural resources conservation. Salem State Forest is located in St. Mary's County.

### **Prescribed Fire**

Prescribed fire will be used to manage stands of pine on the Salem Forest. Site preparation burns will be initiated as needed to prepare regenerating harvest areas for tree planting. Understory burns will be initiated in Loblolly pine stands to control hardwood.

### **Recreation**

Recreational opportunities on the property include hunting, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. There are approximately thirteen miles of trails and woods roads at Salem Forest. There are kiosks with a rudimentary map as some trailheads.

### **Leave No Trace**

Doncaster Demonstration Forest is Trash Free. [Read more about Leave No Trace.](#)

### **Directions**

US 301, to MD5, to MD 235, to MD4 (St. Andrews Church Road), and left on Indian Springs Road.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting & Prescribed Burns & Forestry Practices

## **St. Marys River State Park (Parks)**

Situated at the northern end of the St. Mary's River watershed, the park shows a wide range of habitats, from wooded acres and fields to swamps and small streams. With such a diversity, you can also find many different types of plant and animal species.

St. Mary's River State Park is separated into two areas, Sites 1 and 2. The Site 1 area holds the 250 acre St. Mary's Lake. Located along Maryland Route 5, between Leonardtown and Great Mills, at the end of Camp Cosoma Road, the area has become a popular freshwater fishing spot. Several species of fish are common to the lake including largemouth bass, chain pickerel, crappie, bluegill and sunfish. The lake has been designated a trophy bass lake and as such, special fishing regulations may be in effect. Fishermen should check bulletin boards or contact park personnel for details. Please note that electric motors only are allowed on the lake.

A 7.5 mile trail circles the lake, allowing the area to be fished from shore or by boat (electric motor only). The trail is regularly used for hiking, biking and horseback riding. There is waterfowl hunting at designated sites only (accessible by boat). Permit (free) and reservation are required. You can make reservations by calling 301-743-5161 between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. The Site 1 area has been improved by a modern comfort station, picnic tables, playground, boat launch ramps and a large, gravel parking lot. Picnicking is permitted but tables are limited. Pets are allowed in the state park.

Site 2 covers approximately 2,200 acres and is primarily undeveloped. It is a wildlands area and a managed hunting area. Small game such as rabbit and squirrel, as well as white-tailed deer are found here. Hunting with a firearm is permitted. You may hunt with bow and arrow during the regular archery season for deer. For specific regulations and seasons, [check the Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland](#). Parking is permitted in designated areas only.

*The day use service charge is \$3/vehicle year-round. Out-of-state residents add \$2.*

## **History**

From as far back as 3000 B.C., evidence indicates that Indians lived in the Southern Maryland area. Several different tribes occupied the area at different times, some of which include the Piscataway-Conoy, Algonquins, and the war-like Susquehannocks. Many of the names they used for their villages and rivers are still used today. Items left by these people such as arrowheads, axe heads and pottery can still be found in the fields along the stream banks of the St. Mary's River.

## **Features**

Boat launch, fishing, flat water canoeing, hiking, horseback, and mountain biking trails hunting, picnicking, boating--electric motor only.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteer opportunities abound at St. Mary's River State Park. Volunteers can help with special projects, site maintenance, and trail maintenance. Trail maintenance projects require individuals who are skilled, and comfortable working independently. Staff led large trail projects welcome the unskilled volunteer. For more information on becoming a volunteer at St. Mary's River, call Point Lookout State Park at 301-872-5688 and ask for the volunteer coordinator.

## **Access for All**

St. Mary's River State Park offers an accessible bathroom, and seasonal boat launching facility. For additional accessible amenities in Maryland State Forests and Parks, visit the [Accessibility For All](#) section of the DNR website.

## **Directions**

Three miles north of Great Mills, 24 miles north of Point Lookout State Park, off MD Route 5 on Camp Cosoma Road.

## **Hours of Operation**- Sunrise to Sunset

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy** - Pets are allowed in St. Mary's River State Park but they must be on a leash at all times.

## **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting

### **Piney Point Aquaculture Center (Fisheries)**

Piney Point Aquaculture Center is the Fisheries Service shellfish hatchery (St. Mary's County). This facility specializes in oyster production and related services to support oyster habitat restoration projects, the aquaculture industry, the commercial fishing industry and the Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) program.

For more information concerning Piney Point Aquaculture Center at 301-994-0241.

### **Constraints**

- Open to the public by appointment.

### **St. Inigoes State Forest (Forest)**

St. Inigoes State Forest is located in St. Mary's County on a peninsula between St. Mary's River and Smith Creek tributaries to the Potomac River. St. Inigoes State Forest contains 324 acres of woodland and 525 acres of agricultural land.

St. Inigoes State Forest offers public hunting, hiking and off-road biking. The system serves as an outdoor demonstration area, and is used to educate private woodland owners and the citizens about the benefits of sustainable forestry practices, and how forest management activities incorporate natural resources conservation. St. Inigoes State Forest is located in St. Mary's County.

### **Directions**

Take MD5 heading toward Point Lookout State Park. At the St. Inigoes junction, turn right onto Beachville Road which will access the land and water trails within the forest.

### **Constraints**

- Funding & Resources.
- The trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass when using unmarked trails.
- Environmental
- No Restrooms
- No Wheelchair Access
- Safety – Hunting & Prescribed Burns & Forestry Practices

## **Point Lookout State Park (Parks)**

Recreational opportunities abound on this picturesque peninsula formed by the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Swimming, fishing, boating and camping are just a few of the activities to be enjoyed in this beautiful bay setting.

This park's peaceful surroundings belie its history as the location of a prison camp which imprisoned as many as 52,264 Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. A museum on site recounts this vivid history. A park map is available at park headquarters, the camp office, camp store, and the Civil War Museum/Marshland Nature Center.

## **Summer Programs at Point Lookout**

Summer programs will be offered each weekend (Memorial Day through Labor Day) at Point Lookout State Park. Contact the Marshland Nature Center and Civil War Museum for more details, as well as for additional weekend events and programs. Phone: 301-872-5085 for information.

The Nature Nook at the Beach/Picnic Area will be open on Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m. and on Sundays from 12 to 1 p.m. Stop by and check it out!

## **Features**

Boat launch, canoe rental, camp fire programs, camp sites, cabins, park store, dump station, fishing, flat water canoeing, hiking trails, hunting, historic interest, hook ups, pet trail, picnic area, playground, swimming, Civil War Museum/Marshland Nature Center and pavilion.

All restrooms will be closed for winterization by November 1 and reopened on April 1. Portable toilets will be available in the park.

## **Admission Prices and Park Hours**

Day use service charges are valid for park use from 6 a.m. to sunset. (Maryland Passport, Universal Disability Pass and Golden Age Passes are valid during this time period. Active Military with identification are exempt. Children in car seats are free.)

## **Weekends and Holidays**

- October through April -- \$3.00 per vehicle for Maryland resident -- \$5.00 per vehicle for non-Maryland resident
- May through September -- \$5.00 per person for Maryland resident -- \$7.00 per person for non-Maryland resident

### **Weekdays (not including holidays that fall on a weekday)**

- Year round -- \$3.00 per vehicle for Maryland residents -- \$5.00 per vehicle for non-Maryland residents

**Night Fishing** - Year round -- \$3.00 per vehicle for Maryland residents -- \$5.00 per vehicle for non-Maryland residents Night fishing service charge is in effect from sunset to 6 a.m. (use the white night pass envelope for payment). Any persons not actively fishing must leave at sunset.

**Summer Visitation** - Point Lookout occasionally fills to capacity on summer weekends and holiday weekends. During these times you will not be able to enter the park, nor will you be able to just drive through the park. You may call 301-872-5688 to check on our visitation volume, however we can make no guarantees that we will not be filled to capacity by the time you arrive. On holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day weekends) we do not allow people to drive through without paying the service charge due to the volume of traffic within the park.

**Park Headquarters Office** - The park office is open year round. Summer hours (April 1 - October 31) are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Winter hours (November 1 - March 31) are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Camping**

**Campground** - There are 143 wooded campsites available; 26 of these have full hook-ups, 33 of these have electric. A full hook-up loop (Tulip) remains open year round for self-contained campers (no restrooms available). A total of 6 people (children + adults) are permitted on each campsite (excluding Youth Group Site, and Sites 107 or 128).

**Cabins** - There are six four-person camper cabins available for overnight stays. No pets, smoking, or cooking are permitted inside the cabins. A fire ring is provided for cooking. Check-in time is 3 p.m., checkout is at noon.

**Youth Group Camping** - One campsite for youth groups is also available. Contact the park for additional details.

Campers may check in no later than 10:00 p.m. If the camp office is not staffed, campers may be required to use the self-registration system to check in. Campers with reservations will be able to pick-up their registration packets at the camp office when park headquarters is not open. There is a self-registration/self check-in system (cash and checks accepted). Please contact the park for hours and closures in advance of your visit. Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-432-2267.

## **Fishing**

The park features three fishing areas available 24 hours, including the 710 foot Fishing Pier (24 hour operation April 1-December 30), the Causeway and the Point (year-round). A valid Coastal Sport fishing license and appropriate stamps are required. Active fishing is allowed 24 hours a day.

**Night Fishing** - Night fishing passes are valid from sunset to 6 a.m. All passes are valid during this time period. Fishermen wishing to stay past sunset will be required to pay an additional night-use service charge of \$3 per vehicle for Maryland residents; \$5 per vehicle for non-Maryland residents. All members of your party must have a valid fishing license and be actively fishing to remain in the park after sunset.

**Causeway** - All service charges will also apply to the Causeway area. Those wishing to stay on the Causeway will be obligated to pay both the day use and night fishing pass service charges. To remain on the Causeway after sunset you will be required to have a night fishing pass displayed.

**Special Note: A Coastal Sport fishing license is required for those 16 years of age and older. For the safety of our visitors, tents are not permitted in the Day-Use Areas. Only see through sun shelters without a bottom floor are permitted.**

## **Spending A Day At Point Lookout**

- **Beach Picnic Area** - Open daily (6 a.m. – Sunset) starting Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Open year round with pedestrian access only during the winter season from sunrise to sunset. Limited parking is available near the entrance of the beach picnic area. The beach area has grills, picnic tables and a playground. Limited numbers of grills and picnic tables are available on a first come first served basis. Visitors are encouraged to swim in the designated swimming area when lifeguards are on duty. Guards are on duty throughout the day on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Facilities include showers and restrooms. Jelly fish may be found in our swim area. The number of jelly fish changes daily depending on the time of year and rainfall. For the safety of our visitors, tents are not permitted in the day use areas. Only see through sun shelters without a bottom floor are allowed.
- **Pavilion/Shelter** - This facility can accommodate 100 people maximum; reservations can be made up to one year in advance. Price does NOT include the per person service charge May through September on weekends and holidays, and the per vehicle service charge weekdays year-round. The pavilion contains a large open grill and picnic tables. Water and electric are available. The pavilion is located in the Beach Picnic Area with the swimming area and a small playing field nearby.

- **Park Store** - The park store is open May - September. The park store offers snacks, ice cream, drinks, bait, ice, gasoline for boats, souvenirs and boating, picnicking and camping supplies. Canoe rentals are available on a first come first service basis. Please call the park for hours of operation.
- **Civil War Museum/Marshland Nature Center** - The nature center and museum are located within the Campground. Open to the general public, day visitors as well as campers. Museum and Nature Center are open seasonally, closed during the winter. Offers programs in nature and Civil War history. Please call the park office for hours of operation. [Historic weapons safety guidelines for interpretive demonstration purposes as authorized by the Maryland Park Service..](#)
- **Boating** - A boat launch facility and fish-cleaning station are available for boaters. Canoe rentals and supplies are also available at the camp store. Boat launch service charge is \$10 for Maryland residents and \$12 for non-Maryland residents per launch, valid 24 hours a day year round. Reduced services beginning December between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Launching is permitted 24 hours a day, however, launchers should be aware that there is no lighting in the area. For emergencies call 1-800-825-7275. Maryland Passport is the only pass accepted for service charge at launch.
- **Fort Lincoln** - Open year round sunrise to sunset (self-guided). Re-enactments and special events are held at Fort Lincoln throughout the year. Contact the park at 301-872-5688 for more details.
- **Lighthouse** - Open for tours the first Saturday of each month from April-November (excluding July and September, open the second Saturday of the month) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact the park at 301-872-5688 for more details.
- **Hiking** - Periwinkle Point Trail, a self-guided nature trail located at the back entrance of the Civil War Museum/Marshland Nature Center.
- **Hunting** - There are 200 acres set aside for deer hunting. A valid hunting license and appropriate stamps are required (all seasons except early muzzleloader). Two waterfowl blind sites are available. Hunters may enter / remain on park property outside of the regular posted hours provided that they are engaged in legitimate, authorized hunting activity.
- **Trash Free** - Maryland State Parks are "Trash Free." Please practice "Leave No Trace" principles and take your trash with you when you leave. To view these principles visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).

### **Water Trail Guide**

The Point Lookout State Park Water Trail Guide is available for sale at the park headquarters.

### **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

A limited number of accessible campsites are available at Point lookout. The 710' fishing pier at Point Lookout is accessible. Accessible picnic sites are located at the beach area.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteer opportunities are plentiful at Point Lookout. Volunteers can help with special events, site maintenance, visitor center activities, and general site operations. Camp Hosts are needed for the upcoming 2015 Camping Season! For volunteer information call 301-872-5688 and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator.

## **Address**

Point Lookout State Park  
11175 Point Lookout Road  
Scotland, MD 20687

**Contact:** 301-872-5688

## **Directions**

### **Directions from Baltimore:**

*From Rt. 695*

Follow to Rt. 97 south to Rt. 3 south (Rt. 3 will turn into Rt. 301. Follow Rt. 301 south. From Rt. 301 south, continue to Rt. 4 south in Upper Marlboro. Follow Rt. 4 south all the way across the Solomons Island Bridge. After the Solomons Island Bridge the first traffic light you come to will be Rt. 235. Turn left onto Rt. 235 south. Follow Rt. 235 south into a town called Ridge (there will be a blinking red light). Turn left onto Rt. 5 south. Follow Rt. 5 south as far as it will go (approximately 7 miles) and you will be in Point Lookout. After the entrance sign, the second road on the right will be the campground. When you arrive in the campground, park at the left and register at the Ranger Station.

### **Directions from Washington, D.C.:**

*From Rt. 495*

Follow to Rt. 4/Pennsylvania Avenue south to Upper Marlboro. Continue on Rt. 4 south until you cross the Solomons Island Bridge. After the Solomons Island Bridge the first traffic light you come to will be Rt. 235. Turn left onto Rt. 235 south. Follow Rt. 235 south into a town called Ridge (there will be a blinking red light). Turn left onto Rt. 5 south. Follow Rt. 5 south as far as it will go (approximately 7 miles) and you will be in Point Lookout. After the entrance sign, the second road on the right will be the campground. When you arrive in the campground park at the left and register at the Ranger Station.

**Directions from the Rt. 301 Bridge:**

Follow Rt. 301 north to Rt. 234 towards Leonardtown. When you reach the end of Rt. 234 at Rt. 5 turn right. Follow Rt. 5 south all the way into Point Lookout. After the entrance sign, the second road on the right will be the campground. When you arrive in the campground park at the left and register at the Ranger Station.

**Hours of Operation:** 6 a.m. to Sunset

Certain activities are permitted outside of the regular park hours (e.g. fishing, boat launch, hunting where permitted). Please check with the park before your visit if you plan to engage in an activity which requires you to be in the park before or after the posted hours.

**Pet Policy**

- Pets on leashes are allowed in Malone Circle, Tulip Loop, Green's Point Loop and Hoffman's Loop in the campground
- Pets on leashes are allowed on paved portion of causeway, on beach north of the causeway to entrance of Tanner's Creek on Bay side, and beach south of causeway on the Bay side
- Pets on leashes are allowed in boat launch area to board vessels
- Pets are not permitted in the following areas from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day Weekend: the beach and picnic area, point area or fishing pier

**Constraints**

- Users will need to pay the entrance fee.
- There is no connected trail system currently in the park.
- Walking along the bulkhead is unsafe.
- Funding & Resources.
- Entrance Fee
- Environmental
- Safety – Hunting & Pedestrian Access

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO MDNR LANDS**

- Develop an interconnected trail system in Point Lookout State Park.
- Determine the feasibility of developing on-road connections between Chapman State Park and the Indian Head Trail.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a water trail connection in order to bridge the gap between Cedar Point WMA and Chapel Point State Park across the Port Tobacco River.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a water trail connection in order to bridge the gap between Cedar Point and Chapel Point State Park across the Port Tobacco River.
- Connect Smallwood State Park to the Chicamuxen WMA.
- Determine the feasibility of developing the Ben Doane Tracts which provide a key connection south from Chicamuxen WMA.
- Connect Chapel Point State Park to Thomas Stone Historic landmark as part of the Religious Freedom Trail and to the Port Tobacco Trail.
- Consider a potential connection from Chapman State Park to the Mason Springs area just east of the Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a trail connection between Ruth Swann Memorial Park, owned by Charles County, and Chapman State Park;
- Determine Charles County interest in including the existing trail system at Friendship Farm County Park as an official part of the PHNST.
- Consider connections to BLM lands & trails.
- Consider connections to Navy lands & trails.
- The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy are currently negotiating with a single property owner about a possible purchase of 5,000 acres along Malloes Bay that would provide a key connection between Chapman & Mattawoman.

## **TABLE OF TERMS**

### **Opportunities**

- Beach
- Biking
- Boat Ramp
- Boat Rentals
- Cabins
- Camper Cabins
- Camping
- Camping Primitive
- Camping Youth
- Canoeing
- Dump Station
- Equestrian
- Fishing
- Food
- Hiking
- Historic Site
- Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- Pets
- Picnic Table
- Playground
- Restrooms
- RV Site
- Shower
- Shelters
- Snowmobiles
- Swimming
- Visitors Center
- Wheelchair Access

### **Constraints**

Entrance Fee  
Environmental  
Forestry Practice  
Funding & Resources  
Hunting  
No ADA Access  
No Parking  
Oversight Committee  
Safety  
Restricted Access  
Restricted Uses  
Wildlands